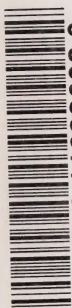


CAI SG 61


-69 R51



# The Royal Canadian Mounted Police



3 1761 11638602 0



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2023 with funding from  
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761116386020>

CH18961

-69 R51

Can. Royal Canadian mounted police  
[general publications]

C6-3 J Royal Canadian mounted police  
1969.

## Foreword

Throughout its history the Force has been a source of great interest to Canadians and in recent years its name has spread to many out-of-the-way corners of the world. This interest and awareness are clearly indicated in the growing volume of requests received each year for information on all aspects of the organization.

Although the public has never lacked for reading material, motion picture and television productions dealing with the R.C.M.P., it is unfortunate that in many instances the Force has been used merely as a background for some absurd fiction leaving the public completely mystified as to its true function.

It is impossible within the confined space of this booklet to furnish a detailed account of the Force's work, but it is hoped that the contents will provide an interesting and informative glimpse of the duties of the R.C.M.P. and an insight into some of the lesser known aspects of the organization.

OTTAWA, Ontario.

Commissioner,  
R.C.M. Police.



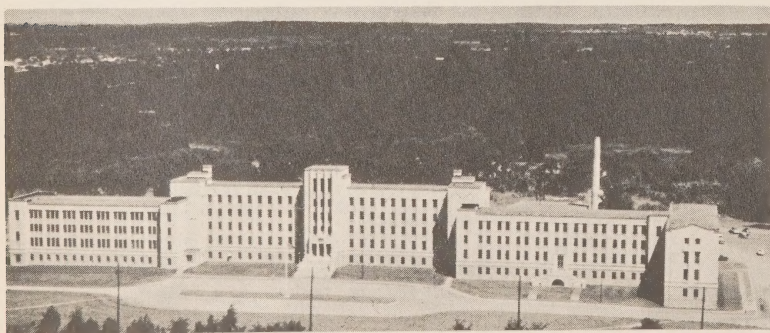


# **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

**Origin of the Force**—At the time the Force was established, the land between the Great Lakes and the Rockies was a vast hunting ground and home to about 30,000 Indians who roamed the plains and hunted the buffalo from which they obtained most of the necessities of life.

Although occasional traders from the Saskatchewan and the Missouri valley made their way into the outer plains, the Indians had never permitted the establishment of permanent trading posts in the region. But in time, as the possibilities of the West became apparent, the flow of traders and settlers increased. Soon they were encroaching on Indian lands, threatening the existence of the buffalo and, as the country opened up, fortune hunters, desperadoes and the dregs of humanity drifted back and forth across the International Border carrying "firewater" to the Indians and generally demoralizing them with evil practices.

Life had become the cheapest commodity of the plains and bloodshed was frequent in the period of lawlessness that followed. The climax came with the massacre of an Assiniboine encampment in the



R.C.M.P. Headquarters, Ottawa

Cypress Hills, in what is now southern Saskatchewan, by a gang of white men from Benton, Montana. Searching for horses stolen by a raiding party of Salteaux and Crees, they crossed into Canada and, coming upon the Indian camp, launched an unprovoked and merciless attack upon the inhabitants, few of whom escaped.

Reports reaching Ottawa prompted the Dominion Government to appoint an officer to investigate conditions in the West. He reported that the whole area was "without law, order or security for life or property" and recommended the appointment of a magistrate or commissioner, the establishment of a police force and several Government posts and the abolition through treaty process of Indian titles to land.

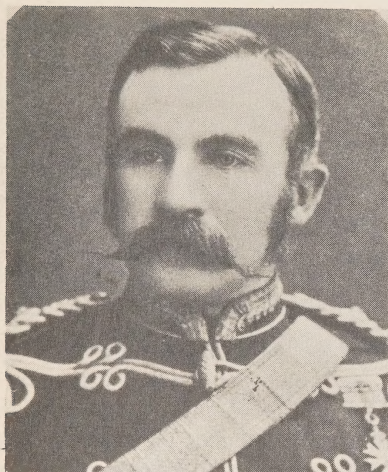
The investigating officer also recommended the institution of a small force to prevent bloodshed and preserve order. On May 23, 1873, by Act of Parliament, the North-West Mounted Police came into being. Specifically its duties would be to suppress the whisky traffic, to collect customs dues, to calm the growing unrest among the Indians who had long been suffering the loss of their possessions to unscrupulous traders and, above all, to stamp out lawlessness.

**Early Objectives**—On July 8, 1874, the little force of North-West Mounted Police, numbering somewhat less than its authorized strength of 300, moved out of Dufferin, Manitoba, and headed west toward the junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers in what is now southern Alberta. There, Fort Whoop-up, notorious stronghold of the whisky traders, was to be located and destroyed.

For two months the cavalcade with its ox-carts, wagons, cattle, field pieces and agricultural equipment, crawled steadily westward. At La Roche Percee the greater part of "A" Troop was detached and proceeded via Fort Ellice northwestward to establish itself at the Hudson's Bay Company post at Fort Edmonton.

The remainder of the force, ragged and weary, its horses in pitiable condition for lack of water and forage, toiled on to the Sweet Grass Hills near the International Boundary. There, the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner and a small party turned south to Fort Benton





Commissioner G. A. French, the First  
Commissioner of the N.W.M.P.

in Montana to replenish exhausted stocks of food and to purchase fresh horses.

On his return from Fort Benton, the Commissioner set out with two troops for Swan River, the newly appointed headquarters of the Force in Manitoba. There, he found accommodation unsatisfactory and leaving one troop to maintain the post he pushed on to Dufferin, completing the round trip of nearly 2,000 miles without the loss of a man.

Meanwhile, "B", "C" and "F" Troops and the remainder of "A", under the command of the Assistant Commissioner, had continued the westward march to the foothills. En route, Fort Whoop-up was located and found to be practically deserted. At the Old Man's River the command halted and with winter fast approaching set about building the Force's first post in the territories which, by unanimous vote, was named Fort Macleod after the Assistant Commissioner. And so the year's end found the little force distributed between Swan River, Dufferin, Edmonton and Fort Macleod.

In the months that followed lawlessness declined sharply and the days of the whisky traffic were numbered. With great foresight the Force won the confidence of Crowfoot, chief of the powerful Blackfoot Confederacy. The wisdom of this policy was apparent in many ways in the succeeding years and led to the signing of the Blackfoot Treaty—the most important Indian treaty in Canadian history. Afterward, Crowfoot summarized the contribution of the police to the peace of the west with the words: "The advice given me and my people has proved to be very good. If the police had not come to this country, where would we all be now? Bad men and whisky were



N.W.M.P. Parade, Fort Macleod

killing us so fast that very few of us would have been left today. The police have protected us as the feathers of the bird protect it from the frosts of winter.”

**The Sioux**—Many situations arose to test the capabilities and resourcesfulness of the new force and foremost of these was the influx of thousands of Sioux seeking sanctuary from American forces following the annihilation of five troops of the 7th U.S. Cavalry under General Custer in June, 1876. Anxious years followed during which the Force was hard pressed to snuff out threatened uprisings, to prevent a union of Canadian and American Indians and to preserve the Blackfoot hunting grounds from the Sioux. The presence of Sitting Bull heightened the danger but eventually the loyalty of Crowfoot and the vigilance of the police prevailed.



The Sioux Chief, “Sitting Bull”, 1878





from eastern and western Canada, aided by the Mounted Police, the latter was assigned the task of apprehending those who had participated in the uprising. Mounted Police casualties in the brief campaign totalled 8 killed and 11 wounded.

To meet new demands upon its services the strength of the Force was increased to 1,000 and a score of outposts dotted the territories. No part of the plains was now beyond the reach of the law.

With peace restored a period of prosperity began. New settlements sprang up, old ones expanded and settlers continued to pour in. Wheat farming rivalled the cattle industry and many Indians took to agriculture under Government supervision. But there were those who did not and rejecting the restrictions of law and order, turned to rustling and outlawry.

Soon, a network of patrols spread out from the detachments linking the settlements. Branch railways appeared and by 1894 the prevalence of order led to a reduction in the strength of the Force to 750.

**The Gold Rush**—Hopes for any lasting calm were abruptly shattered by the discovery of gold in the Yukon. The Force moved quickly into the region, established posts at strategic points and prepared to meet the rush to the goldfields. At one time, some 254 of the 700 members of the Force were on duty in the Yukon and their vigilance and determination kept murder and other forms of serious crime to a minimum in a society where criminal elements abounded.

Once again members of the Force had been called upon to play many roles not the least of which was that of mail carrier to the scattered gold camps—a duty that in one year added 64,000 miles to patrol records.

**The Twentieth Century**—With the outbreak of the South African War in 1899, some 245 members of the Force enlisted in the ranks of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles and the newly formed Lord Strathcona's Horse drew its officers from the commissioned ranks of the Force. Many honours were won by these men during the course of hostilities, one being the Victoria Cross.



N.W.M.P. Customs House on Summit of Chilcoat Pass, 1898

By 1904, eight divisions and 84 detachments were policing an area stretching from the United States border to the Arctic, from the Alaskan boundary to Hudson's Bay, and in that year the Force became the Royal North-West Mounted Police when King Edward VII bestowed upon it the prefix "Royal" in recognition of its services. In 1905 the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed and both retained the services of the Force.

Meanwhile the northern regions of Canada had been probed by patrols of the Force which had pushed into the Peace River and Athabasca districts and had reached out to Great Slave Lake, Fort Resolution and Fort Simpson in the Western Arctic. In 1903, detachments were established at Cape Fullerton in the Eastern Arctic and at Herschel Island in the Beaufort Sea, the latter becoming the most northerly police post in the British Empire.



Records of the early part of the century indicate a keen sense of devotion to duty. An instance of this was apparent in the scrawled note found on the body of a young constable who perished in a blizzard. It stated tersely: "Lost, horse dead. Am trying to push ahead. Have done my best".

The war of 1914-18 drew many members into the armed forces and two cavalry squadrons were formed from the ranks of the Force for service in France and Siberia. So heavy were the enlistments that, despite the addition of many recruits, the strength of the Force fell almost to the number of the "Originals".

**Inter-War Years**—Events of 1920 included the transfer of Headquarters from Regina to Ottawa and saw the Prince of Wales accept the position of Honorary Commandant of the Force. In the same year the Force's jurisdiction was extended to the whole of Canada and its title was changed to Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In the Arctic, Craig Harbour assumed the distinction of being the most northerly police post and in 1928 the newly built police schooner, "St. Roch", undertook supply and patrol duties in northern waters. In the same year the R.C.M.P. took over the enforcement of provincial statutes in the province of Saskatchewan and in 1932 assumed similar duties in the remaining prairie provinces and the Maritimes. The year 1932 also saw the R.C.M.P. absorb the Preventive Service of the Department of National Revenue and the institution of a Marine Section of the Force.

**Second World War**—Responsibility for Canada's internal security during World War II devolved largely on the R.C.M.P. and from the ranks of the Force No. 1 Provost Company (Canadian Army) was raised for service in Britain and Europe.

During this period, the police schooner "St. Roch" became the first ship to navigate the hazardous Northwest Passage from West to East and, on completion of the return journey, the first to traverse the Passage in both directions. This famous voyage began



R.C.M.P. No. 1 Provost Company  
(Canadian Army) in England, 1942

when the little ship left Esquimalt, B.C., on June 9, 1940. Sailing south of Victoria Island, the vessel reached Sydney, N.S. on October 8, 1942. On July 22, 1944, "St. Roch" left Dartmouth, N.S. and completed the return voyage on October 16, 1944.

In 1949 the jurisdiction of the R.C.M.P. in the enforcement of federal legislation was extended to the newly constituted province of Newfoundland and the following year the Force assumed provincial duties in both that province and British Columbia.



R.C.M.P. Vessel "St. Roch" with inset of Supt. H. A. Larsen

**Jurisdiction—Organization—Administration**—As the only federal police organization, the R.C.M.P. is the law enforcement arm of the Canadian Government. It is under the control of the Solicitor General and its operations are directed by a Commissioner from its headquarters at Ottawa.

To simplify control and administration, the Force has divided the country into twelve alphabetically designated divisions with divisional headquarters in the provincial capitals. From these points policing of the provinces and territories is carried out through a number of sub-divisions and detachments.

In the enforcement of the federal laws the Force has country-wide jurisdiction. In the provinces, exclusive of Ontario and Quebec, it performs the duties of provincial police, enforcing the provincial statutes and the Criminal Code and by special agreements it polices a number of towns and municipalities. It is the sole police force in the vast regions of the Yukon and Northwest Territories where it is empowered to deal with all manner of crime. In these territories it also performs a variety of administrative duties on behalf of certain government departments.

There are four service divisions, "Marine" and "Air," which perform their special functions in addition to supporting the operations of the police divisions; "Depot" and "N", which are maintained as training centres. "Headquarters" Division, from which the Force is administered, is situated at Ottawa.

Headquarters is divided into a number of administrative units which are designated as The Office of the Commissioner, "HQ" Division, Treasury Office, and the Directorates, "A"—Administration and Organization, "C"—Criminal Investigations, "I"—Security and Intelligence, "M"—Marine Services, and "S"—Services and Supply.

Throughout Canada, matters relating to crime within the jurisdiction of the R.C.M.P., are the responsibility of "C" Directorate which comes directly under the Deputy Commissioner, Operations. At the head of this branch is the Director of Criminal Investigation,



who is responsible for enforcement policy relating to the everyday operational activities of the Force. "C" Directorate is made up of such branches as Criminal Investigation, Preventive Service, Traffic and Emergency Planning. To a certain extent, counterparts of these branches form a part of most divisions.

**Criminal Investigation**—The work of Headquarters C.I.B. is chiefly administrative. All investigation reports on serious crimes, including those involving other federal departments, are channelled through similar branches in the sub-divisions and divisions for processing at Headquarters.

The Criminal Investigation Branch is responsible for directing the enforcement of those federal statutes for which the Force has a police responsibility. These are many and varied and include the Aeronautics Act, Explosives Act, Customs and Excise Acts, Food and Drug Act, Narcotic Control Act, Bank Act, Bankruptcy Act, Canada Wheat Board Act, Family Allowance Act, Farm Improvement Loans Act, Government Property Regulations, Immigration Act, Indian Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act, National Parks Act, and others too numerous to mention.

The direction of investigations concerning the illegal use of narcotic and controlled drugs is the responsibility of Divisional C.I.B. In practice, the Force concentrates on investigation of the top traffickers, and in the enforcement of the Narcotic Control Act, municipal and provincial police forces co-operate closely with the R.C.M.P. Through Liaison Officers in Washington, London, Rome and Hong Kong and membership in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Force maintains a close watch on the international drug traffic.

As a member of the I.C.P.O. (INTERPOL), which has its headquarters in Paris, France, the Force participates with other police forces throughout the world in recording information on the activities and movements of international criminals. The R.C.M.P. is Canada's representative in the organization and, through the Force, assistance is available to any Canadian police department requiring investigations of a criminal nature in a foreign member country, of which

there are 85. Requests for assistance are channelled through the Criminal Investigation Branch of "C" Directorate.

The R.C.M.P. is a member of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and also the International Association of Chiefs of Police of which most United States, Mexican and South American police forces are members.

**Preventive Service**—In 1932, when the R.C.M.P. absorbed the Preventive Service of the Department of National Revenue, it established a similar branch within its own framework for the enforcement of the penal sections of the Customs and Excise Acts. In 1950 the duties of the branch were expanded to include enforcement of the Income Tax Act.

Preventive Service squads are maintained in the larger centres across Canada and at detachments along the International Boundary.



R.C.M.P. Personnel ship searching under the Customs and Excise Acts

The chief function of these squads is the prevention of commercialized smuggling and the unlawful manufacture and distribution of illicit spirits which, if not curtailed, result in a serious loss of revenue to the country.

The war on smuggling and the illicit alcohol traffic is a combined operation involving the facilities of the Telecommunications Branch, "Air", "Marine" and the land divisions, for the modern day racketeer in his efforts to avoid detection, employs the most up to date methods and equipment.

**Identification**—The Identification Branch is made up of 11 sections: Fingerprint, Criminal Records, Single Fingerprint, Scenes of Crime, Crime Index, Fraudulent Cheque, Photographic, Firearms Registration, Parole, R.C.M.P. Gazette, and Registry.



R.C.M.P. Fingerprint Bureau, H.Q., Ottawa



This Branch is Canada's central clearing house for all police identification matters. Its primary concern is maintaining criminal records and distributing these, as well as other criminal identification data, to police forces, penal institutions and courts of law. The Branch's facilities are designed to assist agencies engaged in the administration or execution of the law in the prevention, detection and investigation of crime. These services and records relating to criminals and their activities are available to all accredited Canadian police forces and because of their national character, they are commonly referred to as the National Police Services.

The Fingerprint Section is a central repository of criminal fingerprints and operates as a national fingerprint bureau. All fingerprints submitted to the Identification Branch by police forces and penal institutions are processed in this section to determine the existence of any previous arrest and conviction, and to file information on new offenders for future reference. Identification of the individual record is made by fingerprints, the only known workable method of positive personal identification.

Non-criminal fingerprints of persons requiring clearances for security purposes are also processed. These are not retained in the Bureau Collection, but are returned, marked to indicate whether or not the person has a criminal record, to the contributor. Only fingerprints pertaining to criminal matters are retained on file in the Bureau.

The Criminal Records Section compiles criminal records from data pertaining to arrests and convictions reported on the fingerprint forms which are received in the Identification Branch. These records assist courts in sentencing convicted criminals to ensure that penalties are equitable in the case of first offenders and recidivists. They also provide information to penal institutions and parole agencies, in dealing with offenders coming under their jurisdiction. Criminal records are confidential information made available in accordance with the law to law enforcement agencies only.

The Single Fingerprint Section maintains an active collection of fingerprints filed by individual digit of criminals known to have been convicted or arrested for offences which, by their nature, afford a

tendency for the person to leave his latent fingerprints at the scene of his crime. This Section thus contains a collection of known fingerprints against which scenes of crime prints of unknown identity can be searched and identified.

The Scenes of Crime Section provides a fingerprint identification service involving unidentified scenes of crime prints in cases in which the investigation reveals known suspects. The fingerprint files of suggested suspects are drawn from the existing criminal record files in the Fingerprint Section and fingerprint comparisons are made. Prints remaining unidentified are passed to the Single Fingerprint Section for possible search. The Scenes of Crime Section also acts in much the same capacity as a field identification unit. It provides local police forces with technical identification assistance at scenes of crimes and a complete fingerprint investigation service is available to any police department that has no facilities or qualified personnel.

The members of this Section are trained in other identification media used as aids to criminal investigation, such as the identifica-

tion of footprints, tire impressions and similar physical evidence which may assist in tracing and identifying the offender. This includes the composition of likenesses of suspects by means of the Facial Identification Kit, from descriptions offered by witnesses to a crime. Photography related to these examinations and to any other police work is a necessary part of this Section's activity. If required, the Section presents evidence in court relating to any matter in which its personnel may have assisted.



Preparing Comparison Fingerprint Chart

The Crime Index Section is a national registry of crimes and a "who's who" of criminals who engage in the more serious types of crime. It maintains a card index system of the modus operandi of criminals, as well as their detailed physical descriptions, including known habits, mannerisms and peculiarities. These records assist in the investigation of unsolved crime by linking the criminal with the crime through his method of operation or by identification from his description obtained from the victim or witnesses to the offence.

Criminal identification through the use of modus operandi records is founded on the premise that a criminal, either by habit or by experience, generally follows the same pattern. Thus having once been recorded, his method may be recognized in any of his subsequent crimes.

The Crime Index Section also maintains a record of wanted, suspected and missing persons. The system is controlled by means of the



Use of Facial Identification Kit



fingerprint files, and provides the mechanics whereby persons in whom police forces have a specific interest are located through fingerprint submissions to the Identification Branch.

This Section also conducts an exchange of identification records with INTERPOL and its member countries on behalf of all Canadian Police Forces.

The Fraudulent Cheque Section is a central clearing house for fraudulent cheques passed in Canada, as well as for anonymous crank letters, extortion notes and other documents relating to criminal offences. It provides a worthwhile service to police forces in identifying the authors of "bad" cheques through handwriting, as well as through the methods by which the cheques and similar negotiable documents are produced, such as use of typewriters, cheque writers, cheque producers and stamps.

The Section files photographic specimens of cheques and similar documents produced by known cheque passers and writers of anonymous material. Documents from unsolved cases submitted to the Identification Branch by police forces are searched against these specimens with a view to identifying the authors.

The Photographic Section is equipped to meet the graphic arts and general photographic needs of the Branch, as well as the Headquarters of the Force. Through the reproduction of large volumes of photographic and printed matter by photography and other photocopy means, it supplies the Identification Branch with material necessary for its operations and National Police Service duties.

The production of instructional motion picture films for use in training in the Force is another responsibility of this Section. Attached to it is a unit specializing in colour photography, and which is responsible for the printing and processing of all official colour photographs taken and printed in the R.C.M. Police.

The Firearms Registration Section maintains a National Firearms Registry which, by statutory authority, keeps records of firearms registered under the provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada. It plays an important part in controlling the ownership of pistols and

revolvers, in the identification of weapons used in the commission of crimes, and in effecting the return of lost or stolen firearms to their owners.

The Parole Section, in co-operation with the National Parole Board, maintains files on all persons released on parole and it ensures, through liaison with police authorities across the country, that parolees abide by the terms of their parole.

The R.C.M.P. Gazette is a confidential police publication distributed monthly in magazine form. It is published for the information of accredited police forces and contains material of interest in the law enforcement field.

**Scientific and Technical Assistance**—Five Crime Detection Laboratories at Regina, Ottawa, Sackville, Vancouver and Edmonton, each with trained staff and up-to-date scientific equipment receive for examination exhibits of all kinds which are involved in criminal investigations. A few examples of the types of examinations conducted by the Laboratories are typewriter and forged cheque examinations, hair and fibre examinations, physical matching of glass or other fragments, seminal and blood stain analyses, poison and drug tracing, blood and body fluid analyses for alcohol, paint and mineral content, serial number restorations, and firearm and tool mark examinations. The services of the Laboratories are not restricted to this Force alone, but are available to all accredited police forces and government departments in Canada.

While the microscope is the most common instrument used in the Laboratories and is found in all Sections many examinations are conducted with the aid of the more sophisticated items of scientific instruments such as X-Ray Diffraction Apparatus, Infrared Spectrophotometer, Atomic Absorption Equipment, Spectrographs, etc.

The work of the Laboratories supplements on-the-spot investigations of the field men and a minute exhibit has often provided the missing link in the investigation or has shown certain suspects to be innocent.

The value of scientific investigation has been proven on numerous occasions but success depends largely on the thoroughness and comprehension of the investigator in locating and evaluating possible clues or exhibits for the Laboratories.

Laboratory assistance is called upon daily and the following case of a breaking and entering offence provides a good example of technical assistance to the on-the-spot investigator. A service station in a small town had been broken into and, upon the arrival of the investigators, a well known local criminal was found parked in his car beside the garage. The suspect was subsequently arrested on the circumstantial evidence and the pry bar found in his possession was forwarded to the Laboratory along with the pry marks found on the door jamb of the service station. The examination conducted at the Laboratory revealed that the suspect's pry bar had not made the marks in question. Approximately one month later, another pry bar was received at the Laboratory, which had been seized during the investigation of another offence and, upon examination by the Laboratory, was found to be the bar responsible for the original crime. The accused subsequently admitted committing the first offence when the Laboratory evidence was revealed to him. An innocent person was exonerated and the person responsible for the offence was convicted by the combined efforts of the investigator and the Laboratory.

**Directorate of Security and Intelligence**—There is a type of crime in which physical evidence is noticeably lacking—a crime far more menacing, far more evil than that against the person. It is subversion which, with its partner espionage, entices its victims to betray the interests of the country to which they owe allegiance. It is this crime that the Directorate of Security and Intelligence is charged by the Government of Canada with investigating.

This work is not new to the Force for prior to the First World War it had carried out certain security duties in western Canada,



but it was not until 1920, when it assumed the administration of all federal laws, that the responsibility of maintaining an internal security service for the entire nation was entrusted to one organization—the R.C.M.P.

With the increasing need for security measures arising from the growth of International Communism, the Directorate of Security and Intelligence has developed from the time when it was known as the “Intelligence Section” and later the “Special Branch” to its present status with all the duties incumbent upon it.

In the job of helping to preserve national security, its chief tasks at present are to investigate Communist activity, subversion and espionage and, in co-operation with other federal government departments, to assist in ensuring that only loyal and reliable people are entrusted with the handling of classified government business.

**Telecommunications**—An effective communications system being imperative to the efficient operation of any law enforcement body, the R.C.M.P. maintains mobile networks with control stations at divisional and sub-divisional headquarters which are located in the provincial capitals and many of the larger centres of Canada. These are linked with some 525 radio-equipped detachments and the latter with some 1,500 patrol cars. Well over 150 hand-carried portable radio units are also employed to link the policeman on foot with his patrol car, a feature that has proven particularly valuable during searches for lost persons in bush country and over rough terrain.

A network of Telex or Teleprinters ensures the fast dissemination of police information to the various divisions and sub-divisions of the Force across Canada. This network extends from Whitehorse in the north and from Victoria and Prince Rupert in the west, to St. Johns, Newfoundland in the east and all units are connected with Headquarters at Ottawa.

Concurrent with the rapid development of Canada’s far north has been the increase in the Force’s responsibilities in that area making swift communications between northern detachments essential. To meet the situation, the Force is establishing a vast and



An R.C.M.P. Message Centre

versatile communications system stretching from the Alaskan border to Frobisher Bay and north to Grise Fiord. Completion of the project will enable some 30 stations to communicate with each other and with aircraft and other stations on a common frequency.

Ships and aircraft of the R.C.M.P. "Marine" and "Air" Divisions are equipped with the most modern radio facilities and are capable of communicating with most of the fixed and mobile units of the Force, with the Department of Transport air service and with naval stations.

Rapid communications being essential to the successful operation of INTERPOL, the Force, from its headquarters at Ottawa, maintains radio contact with some 24 stations in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and South America, through INTERPOL headquarters at Paris.

Installation, operation and maintenance of R.C.M.P. radio equipment is carried out by members of the Telecommunications Branch which, across Canada, maintains some 32 repair and maintenance workshops equipped with the most up-to-date facilities available.

**“Air” Division**—In keeping with the modernization of the Force, an Aviation Section was formed in 1937 but its operations were interrupted shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War by the transfer of its aircraft and most of its personnel to the R.C.A.F.

Reorganized in 1946, with Headquarters at Ottawa, it has a present strength of twenty aircraft which are based at points throughout Canada. The aircraft are maintained and flown by members of the Force under Department of Transport regulations. The primary function of the division is to provide fast and convenient transportation to members engaged on duties in those parts of Canada where



R.C.M.P. Aircraft over Vancouver, B.C.



scheduled commercial flights are inconvenient; charter service is not readily available, or where the particular duty could not be conducted from civil aircraft. For example, the division provides direct service to members assigned to carry out observations at inaccessible points in connection with the Migratory Birds Convention Act and offers a means of maintaining surveillance in a number of fields, including smuggling and other illegal activities coming under the Customs and Excise Acts.

The services of "Air" Division are of particular value to the Force in northern Canada where vast distances that once required weeks and sometimes months of laborious travel can now be covered in a matter of days or hours. In addition, police aircraft in the north are used to transport supplies, foodstuffs, clothing and other requisites to points where other means of transportation is either seasonal or non-existent. In the western provinces and in Newfoundland and Labrador, police aircraft are used to transport prisoners and witnesses in outlying areas to and from court, thus accelerating proceedings.

Illustrating one aspect of the work of "Air" Division was a patrol performed in January, 1963, for the purpose of locating a party of four Eskimos lost on the east coast of Baffin Island. The group had become stranded when their snow house broke in two as the ice parted during a severe Arctic storm. The search was carried out under the most difficult conditions but the patrol successfully located and evacuated the lone survivor and later discovered the bodies of his companions.

Each R.C.M.P. Aircraft flies an average of 540 hours a year. A great many of these hours are spent over the desolate Arctic islands and the northern parts of the provinces which "Air" Division has been instrumental in bringing within easy reach of the law.

**"Marine" Division**—In 1932 the R.C.M.P. took over the duties of the Customs-Excise Preventive Service of the Department of National Revenue, absorbed many of its personnel and with its ships established an R.C.M.P. Marine Section with headquarters at Moncton, New Brunswick. Six R.C.A.F. aircraft, in which R.C.M.P. members were carried as observers, were attached to Marine operations and

the resulting air-sea-land network brought about a sharp reduction in smuggling and rum-running, contributed to improved enforcement of the federal and provincial statutes and brought increased efficiency to rescue operations at sea.

September, 1939, saw the outbreak of World War II and soon after all R.C.M.P. ships were transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy whose strength was thus augmented by the addition of some 30 ships and a number of experienced seamen. Some 155 officers and men of the Marine Section at once joined the Navy, the remainder entering the R.C.A.F. to form the nucleus of its new Air Sea Rescue arm.

V-E Day brought an end to the wartime activities of Marine Section personnel and the Marine Section was soon re-established with a balanced fleet of naval ships of three classifications. Backbone of the new fleet was the 165' "Bangor" Class minesweeper which carried a complement of 36, was capable of great endurance and able to withstand the most severe weather. Three of these were obtained, re-designated "Commissioner" Class and named after former commissioners of the Force; "French", "Irvine" and "MacBrien". Two "Fairmile" Class motor launches were taken into use, designated "Fort" Class, after forts that had been prominent in the Force's history, and named "Fort Walsh" and "Fort Pitt". Each carried a crew of 16 and measured 110 feet in length. The 48' former Harbour Defence Patrol Craft became "Detachment" Class Patrol Boats and were named: "Cutknife", "Carnduff", "Little Bow", "Slide-out" and "Willow Bunch", after historic detachments of the Force.

In April, 1947, Marine Section became "Marine" Division, with headquarters at Halifax. A liaison officer and staff were stationed at Ottawa. In August, 1950, the R.C.M.P. absorbed the British Columbia Provincial Police and its ships and crews were assigned to "Marine" Division. In the same year the strength of the division was further augmented by the addition of the Preventive Service personnel of the Newfoundland Rangers when that organization was taken over by the R.C.M.P.

In 1952 a ten year construction programme was launched. R.C.M.P. Marine personnel working with firms of naval architects began drawing up plans and specifications from which a new fleet of ships was to evolve. The old "Fort" Class gave way to an all welded, high speed, ocean going patrol vessel, diesel powered and having a controllable pitch propeller, a complement of 14 to 16 and a cruising range of about 2,000 miles.

The new "Detachment" Class Patrol Boats, are of two types, one being a 50', high speed, twin screw boat specially designed for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and carrying a crew of 3 to 4 men. The second type, has many innovations and is a single screw craft ranging in length from 55' to 65' and designed for operations off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The Motor Boat Class is comprised of small, high speed boats of steel or wood construction with



The Detachment Class Patrol Boat "Burin" patrolling Atlantic Coastal Waters



shallow draft for patrol on inland waters and for operation by one man.

For the purpose of centralized control, "Marine" Division headquarters was transferred to Ottawa in 1954. The base at Halifax was then reclassified as a sub-division and continued to maintain a repair shop, stores establishment and other facilities.

An example of the work of "Marine" Division was the case handled by the patrol boat "Little Bow II", stationed at Vancouver.

In the early hours of an April morning, the patrol boat received a call from Richmond Detachment announcing the theft of the 36' tugboat "Westminster Chief". The police craft put out at once and within a short time sighted an unidentifiable object on its radar. Course was altered and soon the dim outlines of the stolen tug came into view.

The police boat approached and the tug made several attempts to ram, then endeavoured to escape. A two-mile chase ensued then the tug hove to and signalled the patrol boat to come alongside and, as the latter closed, the tug attempted to back into her and made off again.

Tiring of this cat-and-mouse game, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the patrol boat ordered the ship's rifle broken out and two warning shots brought the quarry to a halt. The tug's youthful pirate crew of two were taken in charge and detained for the New Westminster Police Department.

Marine Division has a strength of some 237 officers and men and 41 vessels—16 on the Pacific coast, 16 on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and 9 on the Atlantic coast. Its basic function is the enforcement of the Customs and Excise Acts but it has other responsibilities in connection with the Canada Shipping Act, the Indian Act and various other federal statutes. Ships of the division also participate in rescue operations when necessary and co-operate with the land divisions of the Force.

**Work in the North**—In dividing the country into alphabetically designated areas known as divisions, the R.C.M.P. allotted the

letter "G" to the vast regions of the Northwest and Yukon Territories. The combined areas total some 1,516,758 square miles, approximately one third of the land mass of Canada, and have a population of less than 50,000 souls.

In 1894, reports of unsettled conditions in the Upper Yukon led to recommendations that in the interests of peace and good government and for the protection of the public revenue, immediate provision should be made for the regulation and control of the traffic in liquor, the administration of lands containing precious metals, the collection of customs, the protection of the Indians and for the administration of justice generally.

Acting upon the report, the government turned to the North-West Mounted Police, by this time an established organization with an enviable reputation, and the Force immediately despatched Superintendent C. Constantine and Staff Sergeant C. Brown to the territory where the former was to make a survey of conditions and report his recommendations.

Leaving Victoria in June, 1894, on the steamer "Queen", the two policemen travelled to Juneau, Alaska, and crossing the mountains on foot, reached Fort Cudahy in August, thereby becoming the first members of the Force to cross the 60th parallel of latitude into the Yukon Territory. Upon completion of his survey, Superintendent Constantine returned to Victoria leaving Staff Sergeant Brown to maintain order and to collect federal revenues.

The following summer, Superintendent Constantine returned with a party consisting of one officer, 18 non-commissioned officers and constables, and established a post which was at once named Fort Constantine. Thus the North-West Mounted Police established itself in the sub-Arctic regions and prepared for the stirring events that were soon to follow.

The tumultuous awakening of the Yukon Territory and its subsequent development are well recorded in the history of the region. For the Force, the Yukon during the Gold Rush was a proving ground on which only slightly less than half its slender strength of



R.C.M.P. Dog Teams—Western Arctic

700 personnel was engaged in imposing law and order on the torrent of humanity pouring over the passes in a rush unprecedented in Canadian history and surpassing in impact the famed rush to the California gold fields some 47 years earlier. Many names came to the fore during that short lived, turbulent period, and many became lost in the whirlpool of quickly moving events.

By 1903, the northward course of empire had been set and the tentacles of civilization were reaching down the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories toward the Arctic Ocean. Again the Force called upon Superintendent Constantine to whom it assigned the task of leading a patrol down the Mackenzie to establish posts along that great waterway and on the coast. After placing a detachment at Fort McPherson, Superintendent Constantine despatched



Sergeant, later Inspector, F. J. Fitzgerald to Herschel Island where the latter established the first police post in the true north—beyond the coast proper—on August 7, 1903.

The advent of the Force into both the western and eastern Arctics dates from the summer of 1903 for coincident with Superintendent Constantine's travels were those of Superintendent J. D. Moodie. The latter, with a detachment of police, proceeded up the Labrador coast, passed through Hudson Strait and at Cape Fullerton established a "first" post in the eastern Arctic, some two weeks after Sergeant Fitzgerald's arrival at Herschel Island.

The subsequent exploration of the Northwest Territories, with which the Mounted Police was closely associated, revealed the vast resources of the region. Keeping pace with the development of the territories, the Force has expanded its facilities and operations to a point where "G" Division now has five sub-divisions and 42 detachments. The sub-division areas are designated "Eastern Arctic", "Central Arctic", "Western Arctic", "Yukon" and "Fort Smith".

Today the primary reason for the presence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories is its basic responsibility for the preservation of peace and the maintenance of law and order. At one time its function included establishing the sovereignty of the Crown over the remote regions of the Arctic.

Some years ago the Force was the only government department in the Arctic with the result that its members held numerous appointments and carried great responsibility. Even today, some members hold such positions as Postmaster, Customs Port Officers, Coroners, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Oaths and numerous others solely by virtue of their position as members of the Force within the Territories.

In addition to carrying out their basic responsibilities as Peace Officers, members of the Force at certain points are responsible for issuing relief to indigent whites and natives, undertaking investigations in connection with the Old Age Assistance

Act, examining fur and issuing permits for its export from the Territories, and supervising certain matters relating to forestry.

At every point in the Territories, the Force undertakes the registration of all vital statistics and at certain places attends to the issuing of business licences. On occasions it supervises construction projects for the federal and territorial governments and at some points acts in various capacities on behalf of the Department of Education. The Force renders assistance to the Department of National Health and Welfare through its Indian and Northern Health Services in carrying out X-ray surveys, rendering first aid, assisting at almost every type of illness and, in fact, performing minor operations when the occasion demands. Until recently, the Force was solely responsible for issuing Family Allowance and still



R.C.M.P. Aircraft met by local Detachment Dog Team, Western Arctic

undertakes the registration of children to ensure their eligibility for such allowance.

In the Territories, as elsewhere in Canada, the R.C.M.P. pursues its preventive service duties in relation to illegal importations under the Customs Act and the unlawful manufacture of spirits under the Excise Act. It is responsible for the enforcement of certain provisions of the Fisheries Act and for the issuing of permits, and on behalf of the Department of Agriculture it carries out inoculations of the dog population of the Territories.

Perhaps no other aspect of its work has added more to the fame of the Force than its duties in the remote regions of Canada's north. The history of its seventy years in the Territories is sprinkled with tales of incredible adventure, of hardship and death, and seldom has man's struggle with nature been more graphically illustrated than in the patrol reports of earlier times.

Over the years many factors have combined to lessen the harshness of service in the north and areas once isolated for many months of the year now enjoy year round communication with the outside. The lure of adventure continues to draw men to duty in the northern latitudes and, although northern service is voluntary, there is never any lack of applicants.

**Police Service Dog Section**—The R.C.M.P. Dog Section was organized in 1935 with two dogs, the German Shepherds "Dale" and "Black Lux".

With the expansion of the Force and of criminal work generally, the strength of the Dog Section was increased and other breeds such as Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher, Reisenschnauzer and many cross breeds were given trials. However, it was found that the German Shepherd possessed the qualities required and was better able to withstand the extremes of climate encountered in Canada. As a result, Shepherds are used exclusively today.

Each animal serves approximately six to eight years, during which time it is handled by one dogmaster who is a trained, regular member of the Force and is a volunteer for this type of duty. Dogmasters

must be of exceptional physical fitness and possess a background of practical police experience. The dog is trained, groomed, fed and exercised daily by its master, and they operate as a team. The dogs are neither vicious nor ill-tempered, but will display appropriate front on command.

There are at present twenty Police Service Dogs actively employed at various points across Canada. When a dog is required locally it is taken to the scene in a station wagon which is actually a home on wheels but, when the distance is great, air travel is used.



R.C.M.P. Service Dog finds a lost child

The functions of dogs in law enforcement are not confined to the pursuit of criminals. Dogs perform many other important duties such as searching for lost persons and lost articles, guarding property and locating illicit caches.

The tracking ability of these dogs is extraordinary. Early in 1963 the assistance of the Force was requested in an effort to locate the body of a woman who had been murdered approximately one week earlier. The person responsible for the offence had admitted throwing the body into an irrigation ditch but was unable to return with the investigators to the spot. A dog and dogmaster were called to the scene and soon discovered the body. The noteworthy aspect of the case was the fact that the body had lain in the ditch for a week under four or five feet of snow.

Searching for lost persons is one of the most important duties of the Dog Section and perhaps the noblest aspect of the dogs' work is their part in searches for lost children and aged persons.



During the spring of 1962 a five year old boy was lost in northern Manitoba while looking for the family cows in a heavily wooded pasture. A dog and dogmaster were called to the area on the morning following the boy's disappearance and initially the dog was unsuccessful because of the age of the trail and the fact that it had been cross-tracked by a large number of searchers. A systematic search of the area commenced but when dusk came the little boy had not been found.

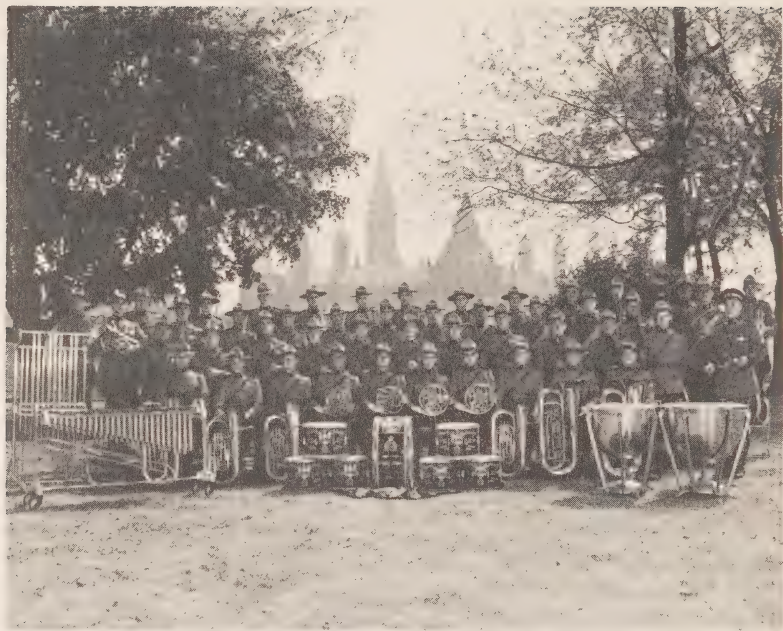
By early morning the dog and dogmaster were back at work and their efforts were finally rewarded when the boy was located in a swamp clearing some four miles from his home. When found, he was speechless, extremely fatigued, suffering from exposure and unable to walk. Dog and dogmaster visited the boy a month after his recovery and his pleasure at seeing his rescuers again was heart-warming.

During recent years there have been a number of cases where operators of stolen hit-and-run and motor manslaughter vehicles have abandoned their cars after the offence. Dogs have been of great assistance in these cases and frequently have been responsible for the location and apprehension of those involved.

**R.C.M.P. Band**—Almost since its inception the Force has had music in some form and it is recorded that in 1874 the column of North-West Mounted Police, while in camp at Short Creek on the Great March West, was jarred from its rest by two would-be musicians who regaled the camp with selections played on a large tin dish with tent pegs, and a fife.

Although it had no official status, the first band was organized at Swan River Barracks during the winter of 1876 by members who purchased their own instruments at Winnipeg and had them shipped to Swan River by dog team. The Band's first public appearance was on the Queen's birthday the following May.

Seven other bands without official status were raised from that time until the turn of the century then followed a long period of silence and it was not until 1938 that the formation of a regimental



R.C.M.P. Band, Ottawa

band received official sanction. But it was still a part-time occupation for the members, who continued to perform their regular duties. In 1958 the band was organized on a permanent basis and today numbers some 50 instrumentalists.

The Band, in addition to its official duties, undertakes engagements that bring it into direct contact with the public and its musical selections are carefully planned with regard to diverse tastes. Locally, these engagements consist of a series of concerts that are performed at different locations in the city of Ottawa, but frequently tours have taken the Band to many points large and small across Canada and to a number of centres in the United States.

Highlight of the Band's repertoire is a performance based on the colourful Retreat Ceremony and which features the Drum Corps

and the Band, led by the Drum Major, in a series of movements, a short musical programme and a march past.

In addition to participating in some 175 to 200 engagements a year, members of the Band are encouraged to further their theoretical studies and all are required to pass the instrumental examinations of the Royal Conservatory of Music at Toronto.

**Uniform and Arms of the Force**—During the 90 years of the Force's history, its uniform has undergone a complete change from that worn by the "Originals" on their departure from Dufferin, Manitoba, in 1874.

Witnesses to that historic event saw some men clad in loose-fitting scarlet Norfolk jackets, others in scarlet serge frocks with blue collars and cuffs; steel grey or flesh-coloured breeches, black



Original Uniform of the Force

Wellington top boots and spurs, white buckskin gauntlets and dull white cork helmets. Here and there a sprinkling of gold lace on a jacket distinguished officers from other ranks.

Each man was armed with a heavy .450 calibre Deane and Adams revolver and a .577 calibre Snider-Enfield carbine. The former was carried in a holster on a brown belt and until after the turn of the century would be worn on the left side, butt to the front. A bullet pouch was worn to the right of the belt buckle. Some years later the pouch was discarded in favour of an ammunition belt with loops for carbine and revolver ammunition.

The carbine, resting in a saddle bucket behind the rider's right leg, would later find its way to a sling at the saddle bow and eventually return to the bucket. Lances were carried by a troop of twenty picked men but their function was ornamental rather than useful as they were intended merely to impress the pageantry-loving Indian.

Once established in the West, the Force gave thought to its dress and changes began to creep in officially and otherwise. The Norfolk jacket was replaced by a short, close-fitting tunic of more military appearance and, when not on parade, the men were quick to discard the cumbersome helmet and the "pill-box", which offered no protection whatever against the blazing prairie sun, and to seek shelter beneath the broad-brimmed felt hat of the frontiersman.

In 1875 the Smith and Wesson revolver was introduced and was followed successively by the Enfield and the Colt. The latter in .455 and .45 calibres remained in use for many years, and in 1951 the Smith and Wesson .38 special calibre military and police revolver began replacing it as the official sidearm of the Force.

Another change in dress came early when blue pantaloons with a broad yellow stripe replaced the grey and flesh-coloured breeches and, although not sanctioned on parade, white moleskin breeches became a familiar sight. For officers, whose dress had hitherto been scarcely distinguishable from that of other ranks, a colourful undress patrol uniform and an elaborate full-dress, patterned after that of the 13th Hussars, was prescribed.



In 1878, the Winchester '76, in carbine form, began replacing the Snider-Enfield and while in later years two divisions were armed with the Lee-Metford, the Winchester continued in use until 1905 when the Force was rearmed with the Ross .303 calibre rifle and in 1914 the Lee-Enfield was adopted.

The year 1886 saw the introduction of the lanyard but for some years prior to and after the Northwest Rebellion the uniform itself appears to have remained essentially unchanged.

Prior to the turn of the century felt hats were being issued in some divisions and in January, 1901, the dividing line between the old and the new was reached. At that time the helmet, "pill-box", white gloves and gauntlets, tunic, black boots, cloak and cape, black fur cap, black lambskin coat and moccasins were abolished and replaced by the Stetson hat and service cap, brown gloves and gauntlets, brown Strathcona boots, brown ankle boots (which were later replaced by black boots), field service jacket, field service pantaloons, fur cap of Klondyke pattern, elk mitts, felt boots and black stockings, pea jacket, slicker and Nor'Wester.

The dark blue facings on the tunic stem from the granting of the prefix "Royal" to the Force in 1904 by King Edward VII. Badges on collar and shoulder were added as was the leg o'mutton cut to the breeches. The old method of carrying the revolver on the left side was abolished and the Sam Browne belt with shoulder strap, ammunition pouch and holster on the right side was introduced in 1905. And so, with certain subsequent innovations, the uniform of today evolved.

The dress by which the Force is universally recognized is "Review Order"—felt hat, scarlet tunic, blue breeches, long boots and spurs, gloves and full Sam Browne sidearm equipment. Consequently, many visitors to Canada are surprised and some not a little dismayed to find members of the Force clad in brown jackets or overshirts, blue trousers, black shoes and cloth caps—a dress far removed from the picturesque uniform they had envisioned. The answer is simply that the Force has adapted its clothing to meet the

requirements of its diverse duties and so the once-familiar scarlet tunic is now worn only on special occasions.

It is interesting to note that the scarlet tunic has been the one item of the original dress of the Force to survive the sweeping changes that occurred at the turn of the century when an entirely new pattern of dress was introduced. Its adoption by the North-West Mounted Police stemmed from the prestige the British soldier had enjoyed among the Indians who came to regard his scarlet coat as a symbol of courage and fair dealing. Subsequently, it survived several changes in pattern and recommendations that it be abolished and today it has become the world-wide symbol of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**Training and Development**—The training programme of the Force is under constant review aimed at initiating purposeful instruction



Foot Drill, Regina Sask.

based on the demonstrated needs of the day. Courses are arranged to provide a systematic development of potentialities, to the extent which the overall mission of the Force allows. An effort is made to co-ordinate the total training programme so that the instruction offered is consistent with abilities, past experience and the job duties to be performed. Procedures have been adopted to control the quality of instruction and to measure the efficacy of the various courses.

The basic training of all uniformed members of the Force is of one year's duration. In the initial thirteen weeks discipline and physical conditioning are emphasized, with the more elementary academic subjects being phased in as members adjust to their new environment. During the next thirteen weeks a high degree of physical fitness is maintained, but the stress is shifted to the vast range of subjects which policemen must know about. For the remainder of the year, trainees are paired off with police tutors at operating field Detachments where, through observation and practice, they learn to perform the various police tasks. An accurate record of this experience is maintained.

A considerable amount of training is carried out at the Headquarters of the various Divisions. Progressive courses, designed to accommodate the particular needs (and consistent with the additional responsibilities) of specific service groups within each Division, are offered annually. Preparatory courses are likewise available to those members about to assume supervisory roles and those undertaking duties requiring different knowledge and skills.

Courses in Police Supervision and Police Management are offered to senior NCOs and officers respectively, at Ottawa. The School of Instructional Technique effectively prepares members required for instructional duties in the preparation and presentation of material. Other courses in specialized fields, such as the Senior Investigators Course, are developed and implemented to meet the established requirements.

Members generally are encouraged to improve their knowledge by participating in high school, technical or university courses which will improve their job performance. Each year a few members are selected to attend university on a full time degree programme.

**Liaison Office**—In the early 1950's, public interest in the R.C.M.P. reached an unprecedented high, compelling the Force to make a searching appraisal of the rather close-mouthed policy that had gained for it the significant title, "The Silent Force".

In 1952, the appointment of a Liaison Officer at Headquarters, Ottawa, signified official recognition of the fact that the R.C.M.P. had become a national institution and that it was preparing to meet the growing interest of the Press and the public.

Word of the Force's willingness to "talk" spread rapidly and brought immediate response from writers, motion picture and television companies and a number of other sources. However, many were to learn that the change in policy did not signify the launching of a publicity campaign but merely the institution of a more flexible link with "the outside".

Whereas the Force regards its everyday contact with the public in the light of public relations and feels it has as many public relations officers as it has members, the more formal aspects of the matter, particularly the formulation of policy and the transcription of newsworthy items into news releases are, for the most part, directed by the Headquarters Liaison Officer. Although of major importance, these functions form a minor portion of the work of the Liaison Office which attends to literally thousands of enquiries each year, the majority of which are entirely unrelated to actual police work.

The Liaison Office produces booklets and articles designed to inform the public of the work and makeup of the Force and annually contributes or rewrites articles on behalf of almanacs, encyclopaedias and similar sources of information. It produces and distributes publicity material on behalf of the Musical Ride and the Band,



conducts research and compiles records pertaining to various phases of the Force's history and arranges tours of R.C.M.P. installations on behalf of various organizations.

A branch of the Liaison Office is the R.C.M.P. Quarterly which is the regimental magazine of the Force. Primarily designed to provide informative, historical and educational reading to members of the R.C.M.P., it nevertheless enjoys extensive outside circulation.

A large portion of the correspondence handled by the Liaison Office comes from children of many lands. Scribbled on scraps of paper, the laboriously penned hieroglyphics are translated into earnest pleas for a horse, a gun, a book, a photograph. From embryo writers come requests for unpublished police cases; an historical society wants a uniform; a gun collector has located a prized Winchester '76, was it one of ours? Some nice young lady wishes to correspond with a member of the Force. Can the R.C.M.P. send six men to assist in the opening ceremonies at a frog jumping contest?

At the time the branch was established, the newly acquired respectability of the word "Liaison" enabled the Force to select it in preference to the popular "Public Relations" with its implication of promotion and advertising. For there was to be nothing of this nature associated with the Liaison Office which, instead, would endeavour to ensure observance by business organizations of federal legislation prohibiting the use of the R.C.M.P. as an advertising medium.

In the decade since its inception, the Liaison Office has endeavoured to create and maintain good relations throughout the wide range of the Force's national and international contacts and to provide a source of information to all those genuinely interested in the R.C.M.P. and its work.

**Musical Ride**—The Musical Ride was instituted in the Force not long after its inception in 1873 and is believed to have originated in the lancer regiments of Britain. It is usually performed by a full troop of 32 men and horses and the intricate figures, derived from cavalry drill, are executed at the trot and canter to the tempo of an accompanying band.

Members of the troop wear "Review" order and each carries an eight foot lance of male bamboo with steel point and butt and bearing a red and white pennon. The lance rests in a "bucket" attached to the offside stirrup iron.

The horses of the Ride are black and are equipped with saddles of Colonial pattern; bridle, with white browband and rosettes bearing the badge of the Force; blue shabrack, or saddle blanket, with yellow border and the connected letters MP, and a martingale with breastplate also bearing the badge of the Force.

The performance is comprised of a series of figures identified by such names as "The Dome", "The Maze", "The Bridal Arch", "The Wagon Wheel", and "The Shanghai Cross", and terminates with a thundering charge.



R.C.M.P. Musical Ride, "The March Past"

**General**—The average member of the Mounted Police spends much of his time outdoors engaged in a multitude of duties, chiefly of a minor nature, but frequently of a more serious character such as the investigation of sudden or violent deaths, auto accidents, murder, armed robbery and many others in this category that often entail a great deal of painstaking effort, lengthy absences from quarters, home or barracks.

Men of the Force have met death in the line of duty and in the unceasing war on crime will continue to do so either through accident, misadventure or outright violence at the hands of criminals. There are many natural risks associated with police work and they will always exist.

Single and married members are frequently posted to sparsely



Member investigating Safe Breaking Offence

settled regions of Canada where living conditions, if not actually primitive, at least lack the conveniences of urban living. Hours of duty are not and cannot be regular. A Mounted Policeman's lot, particularly in the rural areas, is similar to that of a doctor—he is on call 24 hours a day.

Police work is often complicated, difficult and sometimes monotonous and there is very little evidence of the glamour attributed to the Force and its work. Nevertheless, the member of the Force derives a good deal of satisfaction from rendering this essential public service and from his position as a respected member of the community he serves.



R.C.M.P. Highway Patrol Unit



THE QUEEN'S PRINTER  
OTTAWA, 1969

Cat. no: J62-469





